



Employee Newsletter/Intranet Article
(Note: Employers should adapt article as needed)

Get ready for hands-free Minnesota

In just a few weeks, Minnesota law will require drivers to put down their phones and go hands-free while driving. The state's hands-free cell phone law takes effect August 1 and makes Minnesota the 19th state, along with Washington, D.C., to enact laws regarding hands-free use while driving.

"We at **(name of company)** care about your safety and that of your family. That's why I encourage you to become familiar with this new law now and begin to adapt your own cell phone use so you're ready to comply," said **NAME AND TITLE OF CEO/PRESIDENT OR SAFETY LEADER**. "Remember, this new law applies to all drivers over 18, anytime, anywhere – that includes whether you're driving on company business, or are using a company phone."

The new law allows drivers over 18 to use their cell phones to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts or get direction, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone.

Today distractions, including those involving cell phone use, are responsible for one-fourth of crashes and one-fifth of fatalities. In 12 of 15 states with data on the impact of hands-free laws, traffic fatalities have decreased by an average of 15 percent. **(Optional statement for members in greater Minnesota areas: This is not a metro area only issue, 35 percent of crashes occur in greater Minnesota – 75 percent of these crashes are fatalities.)**

LAST NAME said to help employees prepare for the new law, **NAME OF COMPANY** is providing information sheets that outline how cell phones can and cannot be used when a vehicle is in traffic. Additional resources are available on the Minnesota Safety Council's [Hands-Free Resource Page](#). The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's [Hands-Free Page](#) also has a variety of educational tools available for Minnesotans.

"Don't wait for August 1. Start now to make your phone hands-free and help make all of us safer on the roads," **LAST NAME** said.